



SUCCESS STORY

Livelihoods Training Changes Young Man's Life

USAID-funded course helps motivate and inspire Yemen's youth



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Fuad Al-Qanasi turned his life around after participating in a two-month-long course arranged by the Youth Empowerment Project, which is supported by USAID.

At 21 years old, Fuad Al-Qanasi had no goals or dreams in life. Each day, he slept most of the morning and awoke to a shouting family. In the afternoons and evenings, he spent time hanging out with friends. He never thought of taking responsibility for his life or for that of his family. "My family was not very happy with me, but I felt that I had no choice. There were no opportunities for me. Many times my father kicked me out from the house. I was jobless and not of much use. Outside in the streets I only found the bad guys to spend my time with," said Al-Qanasi, who comes from a marginalized group in Sana'a.

Then Al-Qanasi and a friend heard about a training course in livelihood opportunities and life skills arranged by the Youth Empowerment Project, funded by USAID. Al-Qanasi was skeptical, but his friend insisted that they both should join and give it a try. "On the first day, I liked the guys there, but I still did not take it seriously. However, after a few days, I started to realize that I was learning very interesting new things. It was important that I got motivated, as the course was for 100 hours over two months. These 100 hours were the beginning that made me someone else," said Al-Qanasi, with a sparkle in his eye.

Months after the course, Al-Qanasi remains motivated and now has started to learn English and develop his computer skills. Al-Qanasi also has decided that he wants to spur other youth in his community, most of whom are as jobless and aimless as he was, to turn their lives around. "Many times, I sit down with my old friends and show them the differences in my life and how I became a better and more useful person in this community. I hope I could make even a little change in their lives as well," said Al-Qanasi.

Al-Qanasi's relationship with his family has also improved. "My family is now also very happy. They say that I am totally different after my participation in this course. I even changed my friends, and they are now guys with ambition," said Al-Qanasi.

"Everyone who sees me or deals with me says that I am a totally different person. Now I am someone who has dreams and wants to achieve something in life," concluded Al-Qanasi with a smile.